

Claim Listing.

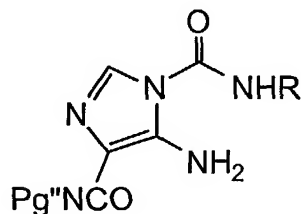
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application (note that amendments are **highlighted in bold**):

Claim 1. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula:



wherein R is an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, which comprises:

(a) diazotizing a compound of the formula:



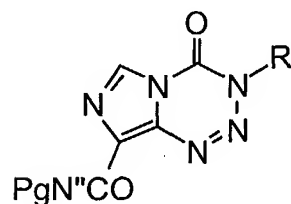
II,

wherein R is as defined above;

and Pg'' is a divalent protecting group that is readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis; or two monovalent protecting groups Pg that are readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis; or a bulky monovalent protecting group Pg that is readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis, together with a hydrogen atom;

and thereafter

(b) hydrolyzing the resulting compound of the formula:



III.

Claim 2. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R is a straight-chain alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Claim 3. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R is a methyl group.

Claim 4. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 3 wherein Pg" is a monovalent protecting group together with a hydrogen atom.

Claim 5. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the monovalent protecting group is a 1,1-dimethylethyl group.

Claim 6. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 5 wherein step (a) is carried out in solution in an aqueous organic acid with a source of nitrous acid.

Claim 7. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the organic acid is acetic acid and the source of nitrous acid is inorganic.

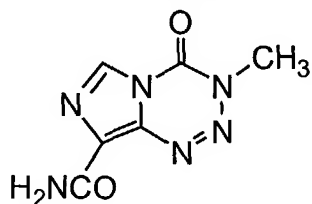
Claim 8. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the source of nitrous acid is sodium nitrite.

Claim 9. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of LiCl.

Claim 10. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 5 wherein step (b) is carried out by hydrolysis with a mineral acid.

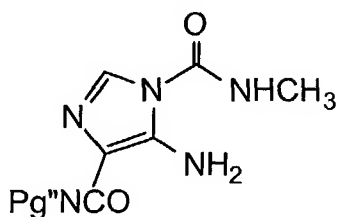
Claim 11. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the mineral acid is concentrated sulfuric acid.

Claim 12. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 1 for the preparation of Temozolomide having the formula:



which comprises

(a) diazotizing a compound of the formula:

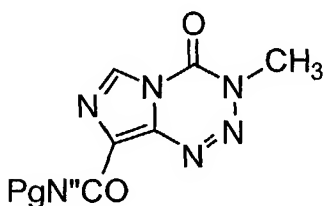


II,

wherein Pg'' is a divalent protecting group that is readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis; or two monovalent protecting groups Pg that are readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis; or a bulky monovalent protecting group Pg that is readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis, together with a hydrogen atom;

and thereafter

(b) subjecting the resulting compound of the formula:



III,

wherein Pg'' is as defined above, to hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis.

Claim 13. (original) A process as claimed in claim 12 wherein the protecting group Pg'' is a 1,1-dimethylethyl group together with a hydrogen atom, the diazotization is effected in solution in acetic acid with sodium nitrite and in the presence of LiCl;

and step (b) is carried out by hydrolysis with concentrated sulfuric acid.

Claim 14. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the compound of the formula II is prepared by reaction of a compound of the formula

Pg''N.CO.CH(NH₂).CN (V) (wherein Pg'' is a protecting group as defined in claim 1) with methyl[(((methylamino)carbonyl)amino)methylene]urea or with N-methylurea and an orthoformate in an inert organic solvent.

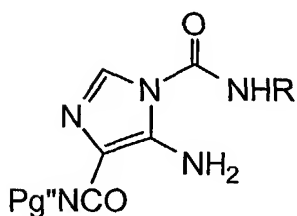
Claim 15. (original) A process as claimed in claim 14 wherein the compound of the formula V is prepared by hydrolysis of a compound of the formula

Pg"N.CO.CH(N:Ar).CN (VI) (wherein Pg is as defined in claim 14 and Ar is an arylmethylene group) with mild acid.

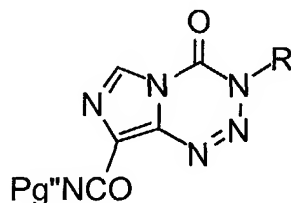
Claim 16. (original) A process as claimed in claim 15 wherein Pg is a 1,1-dimethylethyl group together with a hydrogen atom, and Ar is a diphenylmethylene group.

Claim 17. (original) A process as claimed in claim 15 wherein the compound of the formula VI wherein Pg is a 1,1-dimethylethyl group together with a hydrogen atom and Ar is a diphenylmethylene group is prepared by condensation of [(diphenylmethylene)amino]acetonitrile with 1,1-dimethylethylisocyanate.

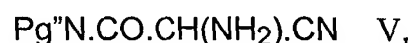
Claim 18. (original) A compound of the formula:



I,



II,



or

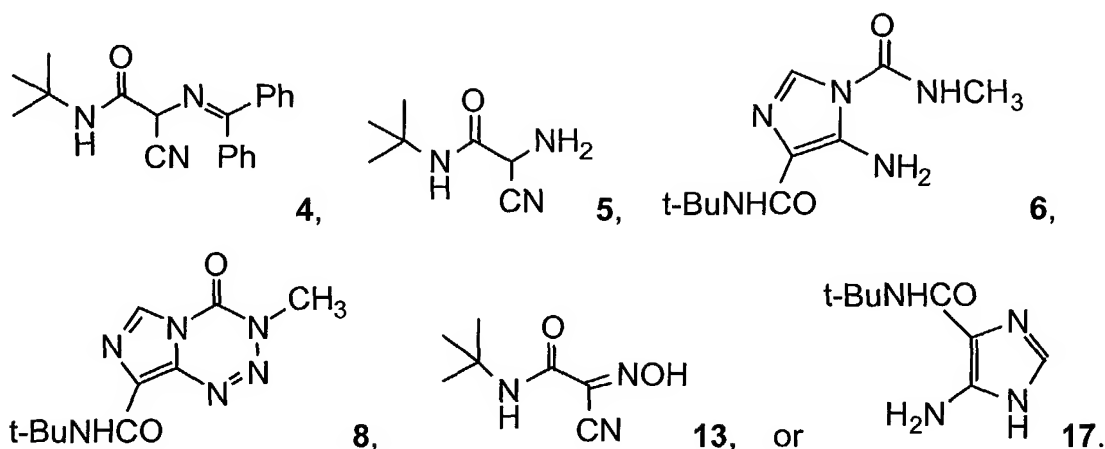


wherein Pg" is a protecting group that is readily removable by hydrolysis as defined in claim 1, Ar is an arylmethylene group, and R is an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

together with the salts thereof.

Claim 19. (original) A compound as claimed in Claim 18 wherein Pg is a 1,1-dimethylethyl group together with a hydrogen atom, Ar is a diphenylmethylene group, and R is an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Claim 20. (original) A compound as claimed in Claim 18 having the formula:



Claim 21. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound having the formula III set forth in Claim 1, which comprises diazotizing a compound of the formula II set forth in Claim 1.

Claim 22. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound having the formula II set forth in Claim 1, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula $\text{Pg}^{\text{N}}\text{N.CO.CH(NH}_2\text{).CN}$ (V) with a compound of the formula $\text{R.NH.CO.NH.CH:N.CO.NH.R}$ or with an N-R-urea and an orthoformate in an inert organic solvent (wherein Pg^{N} is a protecting group as defined in claim 1 and R is as defined in Claim 1).

Claim 23. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 22, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula $t\text{-BuNH.CO.CH(NH}_2\text{).CN}$ with methyl[[[(methylamino)carbonyl]-amino]methylene]urea or with N-methylurea and an orthoformate in an inert organic solvent.

Claim 24. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound having the formula $\text{Pg}^{\text{N}}\text{N.CO.CH(NH}_2\text{).CN}$ (V), which comprises hydrolyzing a compound of the formula $\text{Pg}^{\text{N}}\text{N.CO.CH(N:Ar).CN}$ (VI) (wherein Pg^{N} is a protecting group that is readily removable by hydrolysis as defined in claim 1, and Ar is an arylmethylene group) with mild acid.

Claims 25-30 (canceled)